

About Naming or Why I Like Bike Shedding ;-)

Lucerne, June 2021

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Alcor Training



“There are only two hard things in Computer Science: cache invalidation and naming things”

Phil Karlton

... and off-by-one errors

Why is naming hard?

...and not popular?

- It's work
- It's not compelling
- It's not appreciated

Not Appealing ...



Image by Robert Fotograf from Pixabay

... plus

- Even worse in groups
- Danger of Bike Shedding

Bike Shedding

“Law of triviality”

Cyril Northcote Parkinson (1957)

“[...] spending the majority of its time on discussions about relatively minor but easy-to-grasp issues [...]”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_triviality

Bike Shedding In Mob Programming

- Mob: $n > 1$
- Issues
 - Matter of tast
 - Missunderstanding
 - Revelation of different ideas
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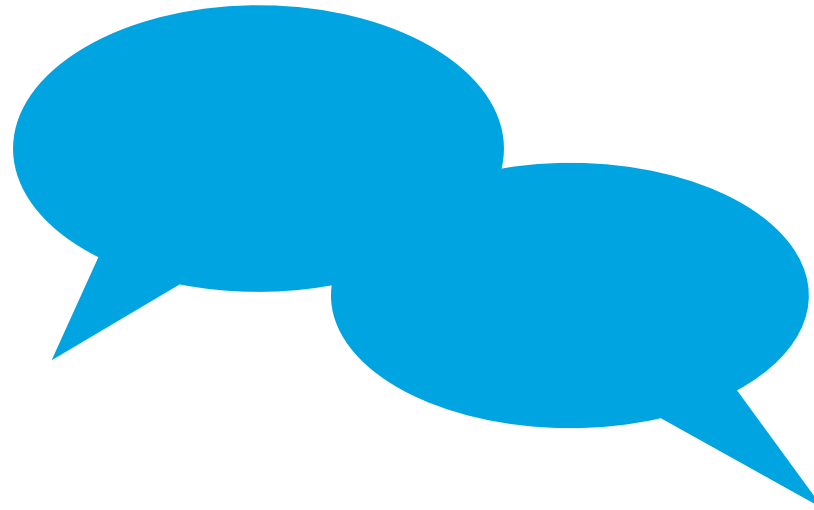
Motivation

Why should we quest for good naming?

- Communication
- Reveal problems

Communication

- Writing vs reading
- Achievement
- Esteem



Problem Indicator



Image by user1629 from Pixabay

Questions

- Doing too many things?
- Technical thinking or domain knowledge?
- Sufficient understanding of the subject?

Take aways

- Naming is hard
- Naming is communication
- Be aware of context
- Don't use Bike Shedding as a killer phrase
- Chance to discover unknowns
- DDD: Usage of a common language is critical

Change your mind:

Naming is not annoying → Use naming as a tool

